

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in the present application. The subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 2 has therefore been cancelled.

Claims 1, 9, and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,013,316 to Goble ("Goble"). Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly rendered obvious by Goble in view of WO99/49792 to Tormala ("Tormala"). Claims 7 and 8 have been indicated as allowed and claims 2-4 and 6 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite "wherein a portion of said shaft further comprises one or more longitudinal ridges." Applicants respectfully submit that this claim element is neither taught nor suggested either individually or in combination by Goble and Tormala and are therefore request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims and all claims that depend therefrom.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative to discuss any issue that would expedite allowance of the subject application.

It is not believed that any extensions of time or other fees are required in connection with the filing of this response. However, if any fees for extension(s) of time or additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such required fees or to credit any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon's Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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